

# **HACD**

**Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts**

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HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS  
H A C D  
USING AVAILABLE TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL  
RESOURCES TO MEET THE CONSERVATION NEEDS OF HAWAII'S USERS.



November 12, 2002

**TO:** Thomas Dorr, Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development  
Merlyn Carlson, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources & Environment

**RE:** 2007 FARM BILL FORUM—SHERATON KEAUHOU BAY RESORT

The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD), in conjunction with the Northern Guam, Southern Guam, and Pacific Basin Territories Soil and Water Conservation Districts, submit the following concerns for inclusion in consideration of the 2007 Farm Bill legislative revisions:

Our primary concern is that special consideration be given to Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Virgin Islands (referred hereinafter as the "Pacific Basin") which will put us on par with nations benefiting from NAFTA. The Pacific Basin--situated as we are in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and comprised of discrete, isolated land masses with diverse yet variable bio-spheres--is unique and requires immediate attention. After the Second World War, the US became the protector of these remote South Pacific islands, bringing them twentieth century technology; but we failed to give them the ability to not only be self-sufficient, but also to thrive in their own restricted ecological environment.

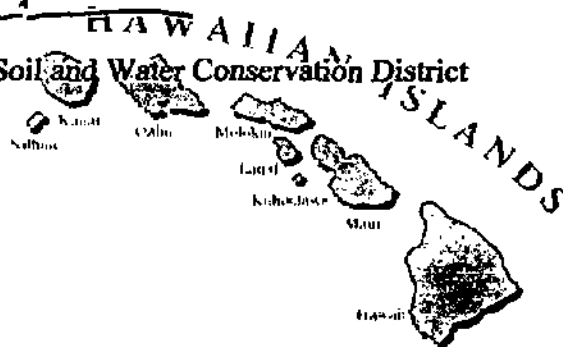
Almost all farmers are native to the areas where they live and work; yet they desperately need access to programs, markets, research and development, and training that is not currently available at the local level. While Federal and State agencies are important in the development and funding of farm and rural programs, coordination and communication mechanisms must be strengthened. We recommend the development and funding of a coordination mechanism at the local level that will allow farmers to work smart and encourage success in their agricultural enterprises. A funded coordinator position at the local level would provide critical, ongoing outreach to the farmers and members of the rural communities; access to local, state and federal resources; and identification of issues, trends, and critical concerns as they arise for local, state and federal policy makers.

The following pages provide an overview of our key concerns to be included in preliminary considerations for the 2007 Farm Bill legislative revisions and programs.

William E. Cowell  
President, HACD

Ernie Wustig  
President, Pacific Basin Conservation Association.  
Chairman, Northern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District

Benny San Nicolas  
Chairman, Southern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District



The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States. It is argued that a knowledge of the past is essential for a full understanding of the present. The author then goes on to discuss the role of the government in the development of the country. He argues that the government has played a crucial role in the growth of the nation, and that it is essential for the government to continue to play this role in the future. The author then discusses the role of the individual in the development of the country. He argues that the individual has played a crucial role in the growth of the nation, and that it is essential for the individual to continue to play this role in the future. The author then discusses the role of the community in the development of the country. He argues that the community has played a crucial role in the growth of the nation, and that it is essential for the community to continue to play this role in the future. The author then discusses the role of the nation in the development of the world. He argues that the nation has played a crucial role in the growth of the world, and that it is essential for the nation to continue to play this role in the future. The author then discusses the role of the world in the development of the future. He argues that the world has played a crucial role in the growth of the future, and that it is essential for the world to continue to play this role in the future.

*1) How should farm policy be designed to maximize US competitiveness and our country's ability to compete effectively in global markets?*

- Consider geographic position and cost of doing business – incentives and subsidies to farmers to compete effectively (e.g., a sliding “cost of doing business” allowance to offset higher fuel costs vs. 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries)
- Diversification of crops for former sugar and pineapple plantation lands.
- Crop diversification for bio-fuel and energy alternatives (e.g., flax seed).
- Develop energy self-sufficiency through alternative sources of energy (e.g., energy conversion through coastal wave action).
- Eliminate or revamp Jones Act to promote use of locally grown agricultural products.
- Modify EPA requirements for feed lots to stimulate ranching.
- Free trade reform to enhance survival and profitability of small farms (e.g., contract workers for lower labor costs).
- Stipulate in all Federal grants that research done for the US may not be sold abroad so Hawaii farmers retain competitive edge.
- Provide technical training and education on developing new markets, farm bill programs, etc.

*2) How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers and the next generation of farmers from entering production agriculture?*

- Hire a Conservation Specialist within each SWCD to facilitate small scale family farms and eliminate high capital start-up.
- Work with DLNR to swap Hawaiian home-lands for trustee-estate lands more suitable for farming.
- Nationwide self-insurance programs for cooperators.
- Show that farming can be a profitable enterprise!

*3) How should farm policy be designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance to producers?*

Modify the Hawaii Tropical Forest Recovery Act of 1992 (PL 102-574, 1992) to include:

- Research and development of products unique to Hawaii.
- Disease control from mainland and foreign visitors/imports.

*4) How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?*

- Assign Conservation Specialists at district level to work with individual farmers, providing oversight for county, state and federal compliance issues, ongoing maintenance, and outreach.

*5) How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?*

100

100

100

100

100

- Our local Conservation Specialist would know soil, climactic, and environmental differences within a five-mile radius and adapt them in practices for farmers to achieve high yields.
- Our Conservation Specialist would also know undergrowth and alternative fuel possibilities of the native tropical forests.

5) *How these agricultural product, marketing, and research-related issues should be addressed in the next farm bill?*

- Encourage major corporations as well as federal, state and local employers (e.g., military, prisons, and schools) to utilize local agricultural products (vs. inferior foreign goods).
- Encourage innovative ideas.
- Designate farming as a minority industry with applicable entitlements.
- Extend foreign trade zones to include farms.
- Reduce cost of infrastructure with Federal tax incentives to farmers.
- Create a Kona coffee marketing order and others where appropriate.
- Designate local farm sites for agricultural research.
- Encourage aquaculture and coastal zone stewardship practices.

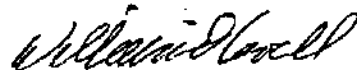
#### **SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The 2007 arm bill must recognize and contain consideration of the unique challenges and opportunities for south pacific farmers which cannot be addressed by policies designed for the continental us.

On the State level:

- Elect a member of the agricultural community to sit on the Governor's Small Business Advisory Group and be a voice on those issues that might negatively impact the farm industry.
- Allocate dedicated funding to HACD from the State DLNR which would allow the individual districts to carry out the public outreach, community programs, and other mandates. (HACD is organized under State of Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 180. within each conservation district DLNR appoints three directors; two are elected from the agricultural communities. )

Finally, NACD has their annual conference in Washington, DC, in March 2006 and we respectfully request a follow-up meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Michael Johanns at that time. The unique nature of the Pacific Basin region demands special consideration which is differentiated from the farming practices within the continental United States.



William E. Cowell  
President, HACD

# Patch 2

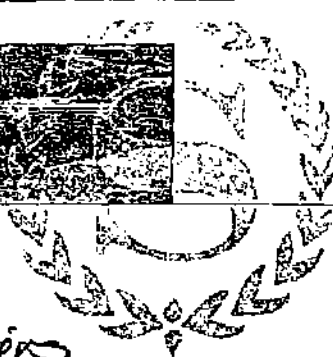
One of our concerns - As Farmers  
is invasive species - but how  
we in Hawaii respond.

How about quickly and  
effectively. The Cigu Tree has been  
around 10 years. The Pickle worm;  
3 years. ~~It~~

~~Then~~ I propose a quick strike  
task force that is tasked with quickly  
& effectively responding to the next  
pest that ~~now~~ makes it through  
the quarantine.

Also, the Feral Pig is a major  
problem not just to the Natl. Park  
but to life habitats destruction  
Farmers ~~and~~  
Sheraton Keanou Bay  
Resort & Spa  
To track the problem ~~and~~





Jojo Taro Moe 4/12/05  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Assigned to monitor public input

Personal Note:

Small farmer in Hilo since 1976

Found offensive:

Sue Anderson's reference to Hawaiian  
families and DHA impacting groundwater  
resource at Honokahau

- 1) Wrong information - please research  
per Department. Neighboring landowner  
responsibilities.
- 2) Different government authorities -  
not only DHA

Make's

